

Supporting People At Risk of Overdose

Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness
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Tacoma-Pierce County
Health Department
Healthy People in Healthy Communities

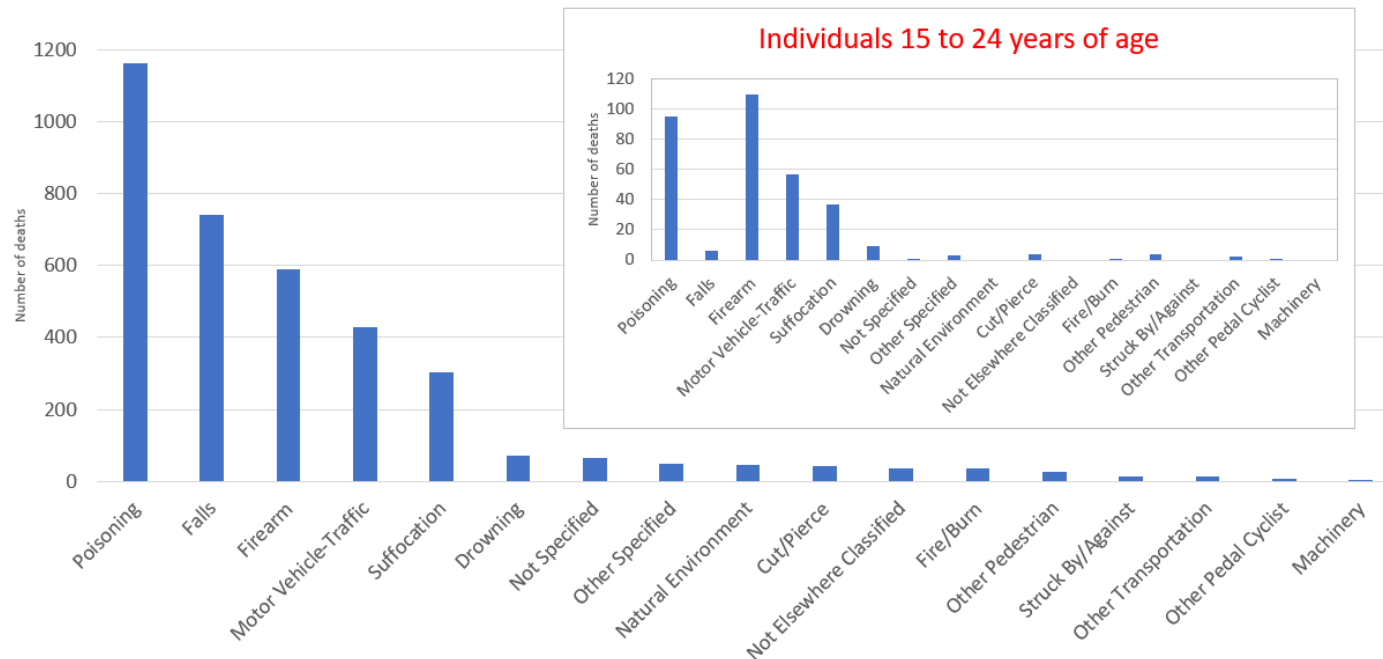
Agenda

- Drug and overdose trends.
- Collaboration and communication.
- Supporting our clients and each other.

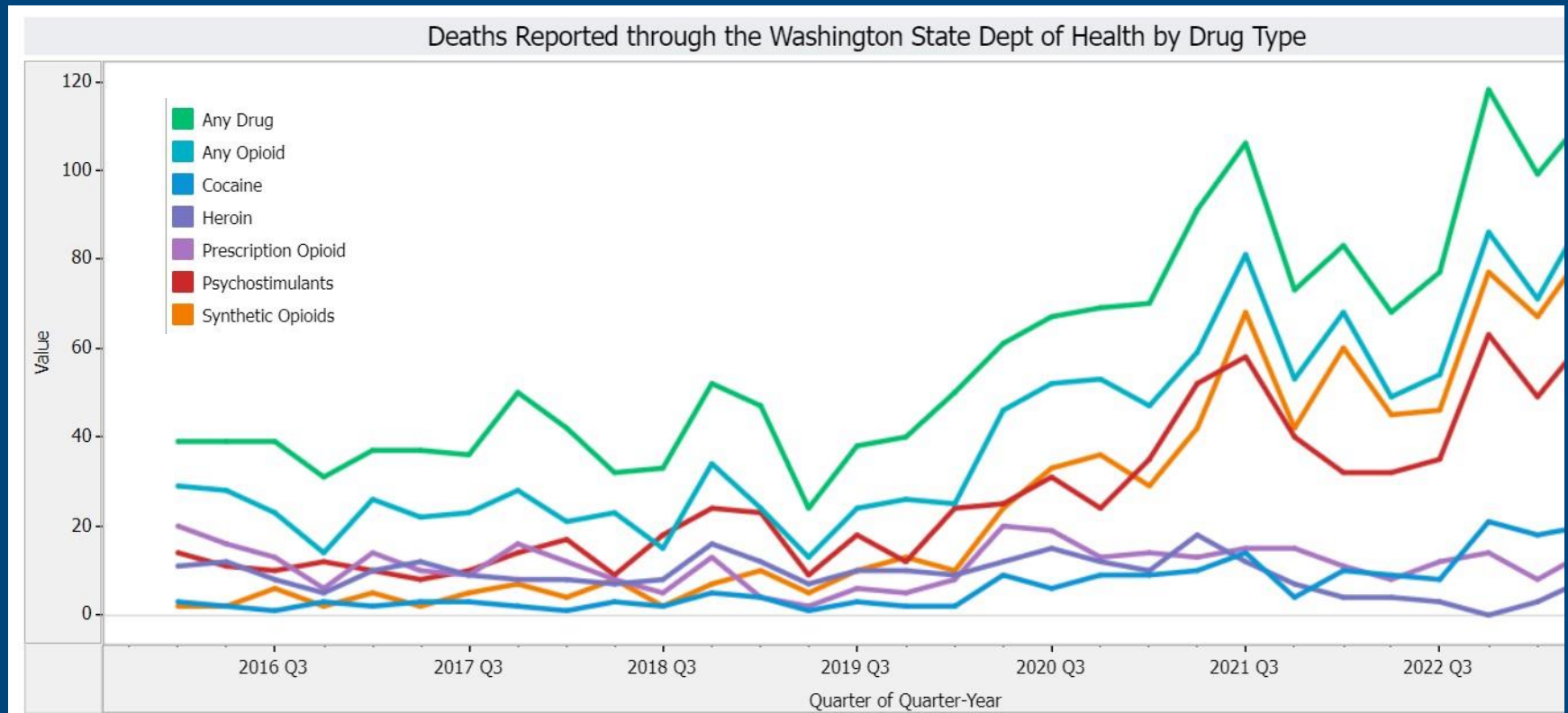


Overdose (drug poisoning) is the leading cause of injury death

Rank order of the most common causes of injury deaths in Pierce County, 2017-2021

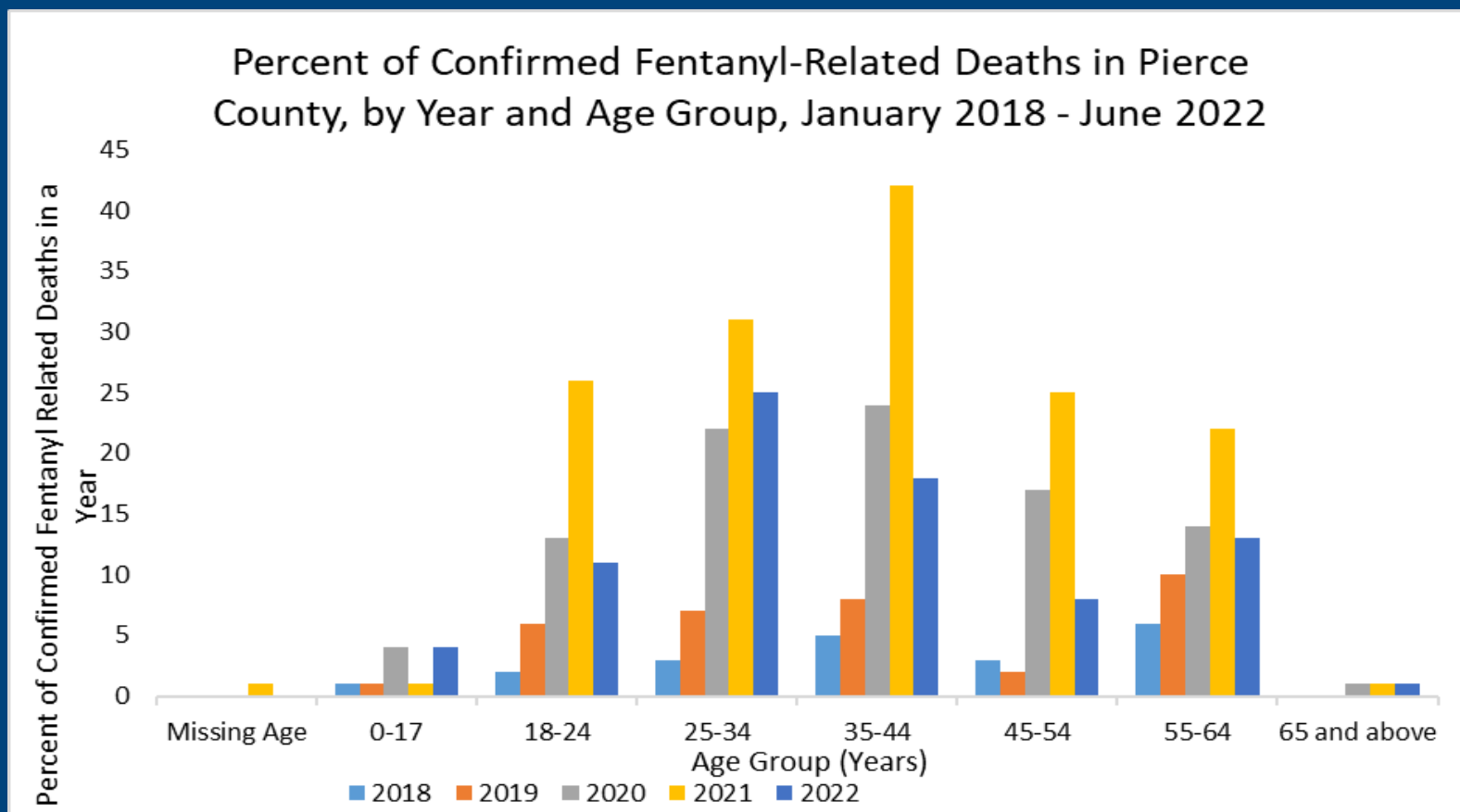


Tracking overdose in Pierce County



Tracking the Overdose Crisis in Pierce County - Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department

Youth fentanyl overdoses are increasing



Who's at risk of dying from
an overdose?



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Who's at risk of dying from an overdose?

People are at risk of overdose death if they:

- Are using frequently and/or from different sources.
- Are using multiple substances, including prescribed medications.
- Have compromised health (Diabetes, COPD, liver failure, heart failure, etc.)
- Are socially marginalized (e.g., racism, homophobia, etc.).
- Have little to no access to culturally/linguistically appropriate resources.
- Have struggled with mental health or substance use disorder.
- Are experiencing homelessness.
- History of incarceration.
- Are using drugs alone.
- Themselves and peers don't have harm reduction tools and training.
- Don't know legal protections like the Good Samaritan law.



What are some life-saving strategies in Pierce County?

- Programs
- Partnerships
- Anti-stigma



Some life-saving strategies in Pierce County

- Programs and policies include:
 - Opioid and psychostimulant overdose prevention and rescue training.
 - Removing barriers to Naloxone and other harm reduction.
 - Early substance use prevention, prescription monitoring, etc.
- Partnerships include:
 - Right Services Right Time and other Opioid Task Force work groups.
 - Building protective factors, relevant supports, diversion programs, etc.
 - Track, communicate and respond to surges, spikes and clusters.
- Anti-stigma includes:
 - People use drugs - some drugs are legal, others aren't.
 - Overdose is preventable- it can (and does) happen to anyone.
 - SUD is a treatable health condition.



Hope grows when we get R.E.A.L. about overdose

Hope grows when we:

- Remember.
- Educate.
- Act.
- Learn.



It's time to get R.E.A.L about the overdose crisis. - Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department

Anti-stigma messaging

- People can prevent, recognize and respond to an opioid or psychostimulant overdose.
- Harm reduction and opioid-reversing medication naloxone (e.g., Narcan) saves lives.
- The Good Samaritan Law can protect people, including youth, who are helping someone during an overdose.
- Substance Use Disorder, a chronic medical condition, happens to anyone and deserves the same care and respect as diabetes or heart disease.
- There are resources for grief and recovery support, including the Health Department's opioid treatment services.
- Loved ones can and do recover with the right treatment and lasting solutions.



Resources mentioned

- [It's time to get R.E.A.L about the overdose crisis. - Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department](#)
- [Here's a Tracking the Overdose Crisis in Pierce County | Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department \(tpchd.org\)](#)
- [Pierce County youth page - Fentanyl facts.](#)
- [Health Department's opioid treatment services.](#)
- [The Good Samaritan Law](#)
- [How to prevent, recognize and respond to an opioid or psychostimulant overdose.](#)



